

measures (and timing requirements for reporting such measures) for use under programs administered by the Secretary under the Social Security Act, including programs under titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of such Act.”.

SEC. 3. LICENSURE AND THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF HEALTH INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines—

- (1) the variation among State laws that relate to the licensure, registration, and certification of medical professionals; and
- (2) how such variation among State laws impacts the secure electronic exchange of health information—

(A) among the States; and

(B) between the States and the Federal Government.

(b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall publish a report that—

- (1) describes the results of the study carried out under subsection (a); and
- (2) makes recommendations to States regarding the harmonization of State laws based on the results of such study.

SEC. 4. ENSURING PRIVACY AND SECURITY.

Nothing in this Act (or the amendments made by this Act) shall be construed to affect the scope, substance, or applicability of—

- (1) section 264 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996;
- (2) sections 1171 through 1179 of the Social Security Act; and
- (3) any regulation issued pursuant to any such section.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the necessity and workability of requiring health plans (as defined in section 1171 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320d)), health care clearinghouses (as defined in such section 1171), and health care providers (as defined in such section 1171) who transmit health information in electronic form, to notify patients if their individually identifiable health information (as defined in such section 1171) is wrongfully disclosed.

SEC. 6. STUDY OF REIMBURSEMENT INCENTIVES.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines methods to create efficient reimbursement incentives for improving health care quality in Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and free clinics.

SEC. 7. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER.

Section 914 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall develop a Health Information Technology Resource Center to provide technical assistance and develop best practices to support and accelerate efforts to adopt, implement, and effectively use interoperable health information technology in compliance with section 2903 and 2907.

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the Center is to—

- “(A) provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience;
- “(B) accelerate the transfer of lessons learned from existing public and private sector initiatives, including those currently receiving Federal financial support;

“(C) assemble, analyze, and widely disseminate evidence and experience related to the adoption, implementation, and effective use of interoperable health information technology.

“(D) provide for the establishment of regional and local health information networks to facilitate the development of interoperability across health care settings and improve the quality of health care;

“(E) provide for the development of solutions to barriers to the exchange of electronic health information; and

“(F) conduct other activities identified by the States, local or regional health information networks, or health care stakeholders as a focus for developing and sharing best practices.

“(3) SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES.—To provide support for the activities of the Center, the Director shall modify the requirements, if necessary, that apply to the National Resource Center for Health Information Technology to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the duties and activities of the Center and facilitate information exchange across the public and private sectors.

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the duplication of Federal efforts with respect to the establishment of the Center, regardless of whether such efforts were carried out prior to or after the enactment of this subsection.

“(e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE NUMBER OR WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall establish a toll-free telephone number or Internet website to provide health care providers and patients with a single point of contact to—

- “(1) learn about Federal grants and technical assistance services related to interoperable health information technology;
- “(2) learn about qualified health information technology and the quality measures adopted by the Federal Government under sections 2903 and 2907;
- “(3) learn about regional and local health information networks for assistance with health information technology; and
- “(4) disseminate additional information determined by the Secretary.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007 to carry out this subsection.”.

SEC. 8. REAUTHORIZATION OF INCENTIVE GRANTS REGARDING TELEMEDICINE.

Section 330L(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-18(b)) is amended by striking “2002 through 2006” and inserting “2006 through 2010”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, Et Al. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 10 a.m. in 328A, Senate Russell Office Building. The purpose of this Committee hearing will be to consider the role of U.S. agriculture in the control and eradication of avian influenza.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on “A Review of the GAO Report on the Sale of Financial Products to Military Personnel.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., on pending Committee business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a business meeting on November 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following agenda:

S. 1708 “Emergency Lease Requirements Act of 2005.”

S. 1496 “Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005.”

S. 1165 “James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005.”

S. _____ “Army Corps Assessment Authorization for the State of Louisiana.”

Eight Committee resolutions to authorize the remainder of GSA’s FY06 Capital Investment and Leasing Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on November 17, 2005 at 9:35 a.m. to evaluate the degree to which the preliminary findings on the failure of the levees are being incorporated into the restoration of hurricane protection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, “From Proposed to Final: Evaluating Regulations for the National Security Personnel System.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, et al.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Office Building Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations

Joseph Frank Bianco, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Timothy Mark Burgess, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Alaska; Gregory F. Van Tatenhove, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Eric Nicholas Vitaliano, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; James O'Gara, to be Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Emilio Gonzalez, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; Catherine Lucille Hanaway, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri; Carol E. Dinkins, to be Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; Alan Charles Raul, to be Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board.

II. Bills

S. 1088, Streamlined Procedures Act of 2005, Kyl, Cornyn, Grassley, Hatch;

S. 1789, Personal Data Privacy and Security Act of 2005, Specter, Leahy, Feinstein, Feingold;

S. 751, Notification of Risk to Personal Data Act, Feinstein, Kyl;

H.R. 683, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005, Smith-TX;

S. 1967, A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to certain activities of the Secret Service, and for other purposes, Specter;

S. 1961, Extending the Child Safety Pilot Program Act of 2005, Biden, Hatch, Cornyn;

S. 1354, Wartime Treatment Study Act, Feingold, Grassley, Kennedy;

S. —, Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Chairman's Mark.

III. Matters

S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment, Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Recent Developments in Assessing Future Asbestos Claims Under the FAIR Act" on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 2 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Ph.D., Director, Congressional Budget Office, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Charles Bates, Ph.D., Chairman, Bates White LLC, Washington, DC; Laura Welch, M.D., Medical Director, Center to Protect Workers Rights, Washington, DC; Mark Peterson, Ph.D., President, Legal Analysis Systems, Thousand Oaks, CA; Mark Lederer, Chief Financial Officer, Claims Resolution Management Corporation (aka The Manville Trust), Katonah, NY; Denise Martin, Ph.D., Sr. Vice President, National Economic Research Associates, New York, NY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on African Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on African Organizations and Institutions: Cross-Continental Progress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation be authorized to meet on Thursday, November 17, 2005, at 10 a.m., on Aviation Safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Priya Narasimhan be granted the privilege of the floor during votes and throughout the debate today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEETING THE HOUSING AND SERVICE NEEDS OF SENIORS ACT OF 2005

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader I have a unanimous consent

request that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 285, S. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 705) to establish the Interagency Council on Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic.]

S. 705

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

[SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.]

[This Act may be cited as the "Meeting the Housing and Service Needs of Seniors Act of 2005".]

[SEC. 2. FINDINGS.]

[Congress finds the following:

[(1) The senior population (persons 65 or older) in this country is rapidly growing, and is expected to increase from 34,700,000 in 2000 to nearly 40,000,000 by 2010, and then will dramatically increase to over 50,000,000 by 2020.

[(2) By 2020, the population of "older" seniors, those over age 85, is expected to double to 7,000,000, and then double again to 14,000,000 by 2040.

[(3) As the senior population increases, so does the need for additional safe, decent, affordable, and suitable housing that meets their unique needs.

[(4) Due to the health care, transportation, and service needs of seniors, issues of providing suitable and affordable housing opportunities differ significantly from the housing needs of other families.

[(5) Seniors need access to a wide array of housing options, such as affordable assisted living, in-home care, supportive or service-enriched housing, and retrofitted homes and apartments to allow seniors to age in place and to avoid premature placement in institutional settings.

[(6) While there are many programs in place to assist seniors in finding and affording suitable housing and accessing needed services, these programs are fragmented and spread across many agencies, making it difficult for seniors to access assistance or to receive comprehensive information.

[(7) Better coordination among Federal agencies is needed, as is better coordination at State and local levels, to ensure that seniors can access government activities, programs, services, and benefits in an effective and efficient manner.

[(8) Up to date, accurate, and accessible statistics on key characteristics of seniors, including conditions, behaviors, and needs, are required to accurately identify the housing and service needs of seniors.

[SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.]

[In this Act:

[(1) The term "housing" means any form of residence, including rental housing, homeownership, assisted living, group home, supportive housing arrangement, nursing facility, or any other physical location where a person can live.

[(2) The term "service" includes transportation, health care, nursing assistance, meal, personal care and chore services, assistance with daily activities, mental health care, physical therapy, case management, and any other services needed by seniors to allow